

DaimlerChrysler AG

Abstract

A method for detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger (2), in particular a catalytically active radiator in a motor vehicle, comprising the method steps, during operation of the motor vehicle, of observing a temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same time observing further current operationally relevant parameters (21) of the motor vehicle for a prespecified time window (tf), detecting an expected temperature gradient over time of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium, detecting the current temperature gradient over time of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium, and detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger (2) by taking into account the expected temperature gradient and the current temperature gradient, and also an apparatus for this purpose.

(Fig. 2)